

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6576

INFO DEA HQTS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7951

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM, AID FOR SER/INC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNARCO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: OPERATION FUNNEL CONFERENCE, BOGOTA

REF: GROOM-NICHOLSON-BUCK TELCON AUGUST 3

SUMMARY: THREE-DAY BOGOTA FUNNEL CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY DELEGATIONS FROM US (DEA AND AID), PERU AND ECUADOR, AND HOSTED BY DAS OF COLOMBIA

REACHED AGREEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 1, STARTING DATE FOR FUNNEL, FIRMED-UP JOINT OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND RESOLVED COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. FUNNEL CONFERENCE OPENED AUGUST 2, BY NEWLY-APPOINTED DAS CHIEF DR. GUILLERMO LEON. OPENING SESSION ALSO ATTENDED BY GOC MINJUSTICE SAMUEL HOYOS, CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS, ATTORNEY GENERAL JAIME SERRANO, AND ASSISTANT AG MIGUEL SANCHEZ MENDEZ. DELEGATIONS FROM COLOMBIA, PERU, AND ECUADOR REACHED AGREEMENT ON FIRM SEPTEMBER 1, STARTING DATE FOR OPERATIONAL FUNNEL. DELEGATIONS ALSO EXCHANGED OPERATION PLANS AND AGREED ON EXCHANGE OF LIAISON OFFICERS TO HELP ASSURE SMOOTH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. THESE PLANS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THOSE PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO DEA.

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2. ONLY TWO PROBLEM AREAS WERE ENCOUNTERED. FIRST WAS PERU'S INSISTENCE THAT FUNNEL START ON SEPTEMBER 1, OR BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEW YEAR. THIS ISSUE RESOLVED WHEN GROOM (S/NM) WAS ABLE, FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH S/NM (REFTELCON) TO ASSURE DELEGATIONS THAT FIRST TRANCHE HOST COUNTRY SUPPORT FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY MID-AUGUST. THIS WILL ALLOW PREPOSITIONING OF LOCAL NARCOTICS AGENTS IN OPERATIONAL AREAS. SECOND ISSUE WAS THREE OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS' DESIRE FOR DIRECT RADIO LINKS AMONG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HEADQUARTERS IN COLOMBIA, PERU, AND ECUADOR. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH KATZ (SER/INC) COMMANDERS RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THAT FULL, DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CAPITALS

WOULD NOT BE PROVIDED BY USG. ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO USE EXISTING EQUIPMENT FOR TRI-COUNTRY COMMUNICATIONS. ALL THREE DELE-

GATIONS PRESSED FOR TECHNICAL RADIO ASSISTANCE AT OUTSET OF OPERATION AND PERIODICALLY THEREAFTER TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE IN-COUNTRY COMMUNICATIONS.

KATZ WILL DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ABOVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. DEA IS PREPARING PLAN FOR TDY AGENT PLACEMENT FOR FUNNEL. PLAN WILL BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON ASAP.

4. CONFERENCE WAS CLOSED AUGUST 4, BY GOC MINJUSTICE. IN OUR ESTIMATION, CONFERENCE STRENGTHENED SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG POLICE FORCES FROM TRI-COUNTRY REGION AND IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED TRI-COUNTRY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION FOLLOWING END OF OPERATIONAL FUNNEL.

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